

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 are presently pending in the application. The Examiner is thanked for allowing claims 13 - 20, as well as for noting the allowable subject matter of claims 3 - 6 and 9 - 12 (wherein claims 3 - 6 and 9 - 12 would be allowed if rewritten to include the limitations of base claims and any intervening claims). Rewriting claims 3 - 6 and 9 - 12 is respectfully requested to be held in abeyance so that the Examiner may consider the averments herein.

I. Claim Rejection -- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S.P. No. 5,526,166 ("Genovese") in view of U.S.P. No. 4,390,235 ("Minoura"). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Both independent claims 1 and 7 recite (among other things) a light source including a broad light emission area. At least these features are altogether absent in the prior art relied upon in the grounds of rejection.

The grounds of rejection compare the multiple light sources 31, 32 of Figure 7 in the Genovese reference to the light source including a broad light emission area of independent claims 1 and 7. The comparison is inapposite as explained below.

The light source including a broad light emission area (as recited in independent claims 1 and 7) enables the depth of focus to be substantially constant without changing the peak value of the focussing spot in the sub-scanning direction by adjusting the aperture size in correspondence with magnification. That is, in using the broad light emission area (as recited in independent claims 1 and 7), the peak value of the focussing spot is adjustable by only changing the

magnification. This is true because the focusing spot size (when using the broad light emission area as recited in independent claims 1 and 7) does not depend upon the aperture size.

In contradistinction, in the case of using the multiple light source 31, 32 of Genovese (*see* Figure 7, elements 31 and 32), it is difficult to maintain a constant depth of focus by only adjusting the aperture spot size in correspondence with the magnification, because the focusing spot size depends upon the aperture size.

Genovese discloses a plurality of light sources, each of which is lighted independently from the others. For instance, column 1, lines 58 - 61 reads "[a] sagittal aperture 34 following the collimator controls the numerical aperture of the collimator, which in turn controls the spot size created by the beams on the photoreceptor." Indeed, the plurality of light sources disclosed in Genovese is very different from the broad light emission area as disclosed in independent claims 1 and 7 (as explained above).

That is, the instant invention is able to adjust the peak value of the focussing spot by only changing magnification (because the focussing spot does not depend upon the aperture size). In the Genovese reference, however, the focusing spot depends upon the aperture size, making it difficult to maintain a constant depth of focus.

Accordingly, the Genovese reference is deficient. Moreover, the Minoura reference fails to cure these deficiencies.

Therefore, at least for the above reasons, it is respectfully asserted that the independent claims 1 and 7 recite features that are altogether absent in the prior art relied upon in the grounds of rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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